Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of inlaying a design into a laminate sheet and bonding the inlaid laminate sheet to a core structure, comprising:

cutting an aperture out of a first laminate sheet;

cutting a congruent insert from a second laminate sheet to be placed in the aperture of the first laminate sheet;

placing the congruent insert in the aperture of the first laminate sheet to provide a composite inlay design;

securing the congruent insert in place in the aperture of the first laminate sheet by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said composite inlay design in place;

placing the first laminate sheet with the congruent insert secured in the aperture of the first laminate sheet over a core structure; and

laminating the first laminate sheet with the congruent insert secured in the aperture to the core structure using heat and pressure.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first laminate sheet and the second laminate sheet are different from one another in at lease one material characteristic.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one material characteristic is color.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one material characteristic is a surface property.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the surface property is the

coefficient of friction.

6. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 1, wherein cutting the aperture out of the first laminate sheet is accomplished using the same method as cutting the congruent insert out of the second laminate sheet.

7. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 6, wherein the cutting is done using a die cut operation.

8. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 1, wherein the first and second sheets are made from a polymer material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene, and polyvinylchloride.

9. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 1, wherein securing the congruent insert in the aperture of the first sheet includes taping the congruent insert in place.

10. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 1, wherein laminating the first laminating sheet and the congruent insert to the core structure includes feeding the core structure, the first laminate sheet and the congruent insert through a roll-press-laminating device.

11. (currently amended) A method of inlaying a design into a laminate sheet and bonding the inlaid laminate sheet to a core structure, comprising:

cutting an aperture out of a first laminate sheet creating a first insert;

cutting a congruent second insert from a second laminate sheet to be placed in the aperture of the first laminate sheet leaving an aperture in the second laminate sheet;

placing the first insert in the aperture of the second laminate sheet to provide a first composite inlay design and placing the congruent second insert in the aperture of the first laminate sheet to provide a second composite inlay design;

securing the first insert in place in the aperture of the second laminate sheet by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said first composite inlay design in place and securing the congruent second insert in place in the aperture of the first

laminate sheet by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said second composite inlay design in place;;

placing the first laminate sheet with the second congruent insert secured in the first inlay aperture over a first core structure; and placing the second laminate sheet with the first insert secured in the second inlay aperture over a second core structure; and

laminating the first laminate sheet and the congruent second insert to the first core structure using heat and pressure and laminating the second laminate sheer and the first insert to the second core structure using heat and pressure.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the first laminate sheet and the second laminate sheet are different from one another in at least one material characteristic.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one material characteristic is color.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one material characteristic is a surface property.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the surface property is the coefficient of friction.

16. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 11, wherein cutting the aperture out of the first laminate sheet is accomplished using the same method as cutting the congruent insert out of the second laminate sheet.

17. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 16, wherein the cutting is done using a die cut operation.

18. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 11, wherein the first and second laminate sheets are made from a polymer material selected from the group consisting of

polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene, and polyvinylchloride.

19-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method of inlaying a design into a laminate sheet and bonding the inlaid laminate sheet to a core structure, comprising:

cutting an inlay design having at least two parts out of a first laminate sheet leaving an inlay aperture;

cutting a congruent insert having at least two parts from a second laminate sheet leaving an inlay aperture, wherein at least one of the parts is placed in the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet;

cutting a congruent insert having at least two parts from a third laminate sheet leaving an inlay aperture, wherein at least one part is to be placed in the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet;

aligning at least one part of the congruent insert from the second laminate sheet in the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet;

aligning at least one part of the congruent insert from the third laminate sheet in the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet, thereby filling the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet, effective to provide a composite inlay design;

securing the congruent inserts from the second and third laminate sheets in place in the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said composite inlay design in place;

placing the first laminate sheet with the congruent inserts from the second and third laminate sheets secured in the inlay aperture of the first laminate sheet over a core structure; and

laminating the first laminating sheet with the congruent inserts secured in the inlay aperture to the core structure using heat and pressure.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the first laminate sheet, the second laminate sheet and the third laminate sheet are different from one another in at lease one material characteristic.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one material characteristic is color.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one material characteristic is a surface property.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the surface property is the coefficient of friction.

29. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 24, wherein cutting the inlay design out of the first laminate sheet is accomplished using the same method as cutting the congruent insert out of the second laminate sheet and out of the third laminate sheet.

30. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 29, wherein the cutting is done using a die cut operation.

31. (currently amended) The method of inlaying of claim 24, wherein the first, second and third laminate sheets are made from a polymer material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene, and polyvinylchloride.

32. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 24, wherein securing the congruent insert in the inlay aperture includes bonding a layer of polymer sheet over the congruent inserts.

33. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 32, wherein the polymer sheet is a polyethylene sheet.

34. (previously presented) The method of inlaying of claim 24, wherein laminating the first laminating sheet to the core structure includes feeding the core structure and the first laminate sheet through a roll-press-laminating device.

35. (currently amended) A method of inlaying a design into a laminate sheet and bonding the inlaid laminate sheet to a core structure, comprising:

cutting a multipart inlay design out of a first laminate sheet creating a first set of inserts and leaving a first inlay aperture in the first laminate sheet;

cutting a congruent second set of inserts from a second laminate sheet leaving a second inlay aperture in the second laminate sheet;

cutting a congruent third set of inserts from a third laminate sheet leaving a third inlay aperture in the third laminate sheet;

aligning at least one insert from the second set of inserts in the first inlay aperture and aligning at least one insert from the third set of inserts in the first inlay aperture to provide a first composite inlay design;

securing the at least one insert from the second set of inserts and securing the at least one insert from the third set of inserts in place in the first inlay aperture by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said first composite inlay design in place;

placing the first laminate sheet with the inserts secured in the first inlay aperture over a first core structure; and

laminating the first laminating sheet to the first core structure using heat and pressure.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

aligning at least one insert from the first set of inserts in the second inlay aperture and aligning at least one insert from the third set of inserts in the second inlay aperture to provide a second composite inlay design;

securing the at least one insert from the first set of inserts and securing the at least one insert from the third set of inserts in place in the second inlay aperture by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said second composite inlay design in place;

placing the second laminate sheet with the inserts secured in the second inlay aperture over a second core structure; and

laminating the second laminating sheet to the second core structure using heat and pressure.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

aligning at least one insert from the first set of inserts in the third inlay aperture and aligning at least one insert from the second set of inserts in the third inlay aperture to provide a third composite inlay design;

securing the at least one insert from the first set of inserts and securing the at least one insert from the second set of inserts in place in the third inlay aperture by applying heat through a non-stick layer to a bonding material effective to hold said third composite inlay design in place;

placing the third laminate sheet with the inserts secured in the third inlay aperture over a third core structure; and

laminating the third laminating sheet to the third core structure using heat and pressure.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the first laminate sheet, the second laminate sheet and the third laminate sheet are different in at ~~lease~~ least one material characteristic.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 38, wherein the at least one material characteristic is color.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 38, wherein the at least one material characteristic is a surface property.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 38, wherein the surface property is the coefficient of friction.